

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1 - 19. Cancelled.

20. (Currently Amended) A support post of adjustable length, comprising first and second post elements movable which can be moved axially of each other between a plurality of and have detent openings with opposing flat surfaces that are aligned with each other when the post elements are in predetermined indexed positions, and a detent having [[a]] flat face bearing surfaces on opposite sides thereof for engagement with the flat surfaces of the detent openings in the post elements to hold the post elements in the indexed positions for both lifting and stacking loads.

21. (Currently Amended) The support post of Claim 20 wherein the bearing surfaces of the detent correspond~~[[s]]~~ in size to a substantial portion of the cross section of the post.

22. (Previously Added) The support post of Claim 20 further including a transverse rail affixed to the first post element, with the detent being connected to an operating element which is movable relative to the rail.

23. (Currently Amended) A support post of adjustable length, comprising first and second post elements movable axially of each other between a plurality of predetermined indexed positions, a detent having a flat face bearing surface for engagement with the post elements to hold the elements in the indexed positions. The support post of Claim 20 further including a transverse rail affixed to the first post element, and a diagonal brace having a first end which is pivotally connected to the second post element and a second end which can be connected to the transverse rail at different locations along the rail when the post elements are in different ones of the indexed positions.

24. (Currently Amended) The support post of Claim 20 wherein the detent comprises a pin with opposing flat faces for bearing stacking and suspension support loads which can be inserted into and removed from the aligned detent openings.

25. Cancelled.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A detent for the~~ The support post of Claim 20 configured as a shallow wherein the detent comprises a flat plate.

27. (Previously Added) A container having support posts as in Claim 20 wherein the posts are retractable to reduce the cross section of the container to a size which can pass through an opening of limited dimension.

28. (Currently Amended) A container having support posts as in Claim 20 ~~configured as a railway wagon~~ with a cross-sectional profile which can be adapted to fit through passages of limited dimension by adjusting the span of the support posts.

29. (Previously Added) A container having support posts as in Claim 20, with a header of deep cross section between posts configured as a beam, barrier, wall, gate or door.

30. (Previously Added) A container having support posts as in Claim 20, with discrete movable header portions individually mounted upon respective ones of the support posts and together spanning between the posts.

31. (Previously Added) A container having support posts as in Claim 20, with discrete header portions mounted on the support posts cooperatively disposed as movable end gates or doors.

32. (Currently Amended) A container with support posts as in Claim 20 extending from a deck, with a gate suspended from one of the posts, and bracing between the post ~~with~~ from which the gate is suspended and the deck.

33. (Currently Amended) A container having support posts as in Claim 20 extending from a deck, with ~~transverse~~ bracing between the posts and/or the deck, and means for connecting the bracing to the posts and/or the deck in different positions depending upon the length of the posts to inhibit transverse racking loads associated with detent and post aperture interfit.

34. (Previously Added) A container having a plurality of the support posts of Claim 20 extending in an upward direction from a platform deck, with capture and handling fittings at the upper ends of the posts, a transverse header beam between posts on opposite sides of the deck, with the lengths of the posts being adjustable to present the capture and handling fittings for access above the header.

35. (Currently Amended) A ~~support~~ post of adjustable length for supporting both lifting and stacking loads on a freight container, comprising a pair relatively movable post elements having index openings with opposing flat sides therein, and a ~~flat-faced~~ detent having opposing flat surfaces engagable with the flat sides of the openings to retain the post elements in a predetermined position.

36. (Currently Amended) A support post, comprising a first section mounted in a fixed position relative to a base, a second section which is axially extensible relative to the first section, apertures in the first and second sections with opposing flat surfaces

for indexed mutual alignment when the second section is extended or retracted to predetermined positions, and a ~~flat-faced~~ detent plate having opposing flat surfaces for insertion into the apertures to locate and retain sections in a predetermined position relative to each other.

37. Cancelled.

38. (Previously Added) A support post for a container, comprising an upstanding first section mounted in a fixed position, a second section which is axially extensible relative to the first section, laterally extending rectangular openings in the two sections which are aligned with each other when the second section is extended to a predetermined position, and a relatively flat detent pin of rectangular cross section which can be inserted into the aligned openings to hold the second section in the predetermined position.